

jected in the count and deducted from the Democratic vote, the result of the election will remain unchanged.

We have thus reviewed the general features of the evidence presented to us by the contestants, and have shown that if all of the difference between the Reform vote at the two elections were added to their vote at the November election as representing the extent of the alleged intimidation; and if we also accept their conjectures as evidence, and deduct from the Democratic vote all of the ballots they pronounce suspicious, the sitting members of this House remain still manifestly the choice of a large majority of the legal voters of their respective districts.

It is difficult to believe that this contest was seriously undertaken with the expectation of attaining its professed and ostensible end. It is difficult to believe that the contestants expected that an election where their own vote was so large would be set aside.

But inasmuch as the leading organ of their party had committed itself to the most reckless denunciation of the Democratic government of the State and city in all particulars, and had especially denounced this election in the most extravagant terms, it may be that the Reform party felt compelled to sustain its organ by a show of testimony to sustain its charges. We think that the house will agree with us in placing the investigation into the conduct of the late election in Baltimore city among the many conspicuous failures of the Reform party to sustain the slanders of their party press.

We have given our views of the effect of the evidence as a whole in this report to avoid repetition, although the report is in form applicable only to the First Legislative District, consisting of the first seven wards.

In this district we find that no serious riot occurred, except in the first precinct of the 5th ward. In the other wards several cases of assault are proved, and the exclusion of some votes is testified to. But even in this precinct of the fifth ward, it is proved that voting continued, and that the line of voters was reformed, from time to time, when it had been broken by riotous persons. The loss of the Reform vote in the fifth ward was but 15 per cent. as compared with the vote at the Municipal election, no greater loss than appears in the other wards of the district where quiet prevailed. The total difference between the vote of the Reform party in this district at the two elections is about 1,300, while the Democratic members of this House received a majority of over 6,000. If we were to assume that but for the intimidation charged, they would have polled these 1,300 votes, there remains a